

THE TAU BETA PI ASSOCIATION, Incorporated

Integrity and Excellence in Engineering

- The primary purpose of The Tau Beta Pi Association, the national engineering honor society, is to recognize engineering students of superior scholarship and exemplary character and to honor eminent practitioners of engineering.

- The Association was founded in 1885 at Lehigh University, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, by Dr. Edward H. Williams Jr., head of the mining department. He saw the need to offer engineering students the same chance for recognition that another honor society gave to students in the liberal arts.

- Tau Beta Pi has grown steadily since its founding, and there are now collegiate chapters at 220 U.S. colleges and universities, active alumnus chapters in 13 cities across the United States, and a total membership of 375,000. The national headquarters of the world's largest engineering organization is located at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

- In addition to recognizing outstanding engineers, Tau Beta Pi seeks to "foster a spirit of liberal culture in engineering" thereby encouraging its members to be responsive to current and future community needs. Association chapters have undertaken such projects as designing and constructing a reading aid for the visually handicapped, building a laser display, conducting a survey of building accessibility to the handicapped, and operating a speakers bureau to inform the public of social issues related to technological advancements. Additionally, 45 Tau Beta Pi Laureates have been named. These are outstanding undergraduate members who have made significant non-technical contributions in the areas of creative and performing arts, speaking and writing, community service, campus leadership, and athletics.

- The Association's biggest philanthropy is its Fellowship Program. Adopted in 1928, it has awarded 710 advanced-study grants totaling \$2,985,000. Fellows are free to do graduate work in any field that will enable them to contribute to both society and the engineering profession. In addition, scholarships of \$1,000 are awarded to six entering college freshmen each fall.

- Tau Beta Pi members include such notable achievers as *Time* magazine's man of the year Andy Grove, Draper prize winners Jack Kilby, Hans von Ohain, John Pierce, and Harold Rosen; 15 Nobel laureates, including Rosalyn Yalow; Presidential medal of freedom awardees Buzz Aldrin, John Bardeen, Fred Haise, C.L. Kelly Johnson, David Packard, Simon Ramo, and others; current governors Fob James (Ala.), Paul Patton (Ky.), and Kirk Fordice (Miss.); business executives Paul Allaire, Norm Augustine, Ray Dolby, George Fisher, Lawrence Fuller, George Heilmeier, Charles LaMantia, and Jack Welch; inventors Albert Babb (portable dialysis machine), Wilson Greatbatch (implantable cardiac pacemaker), Paul Lauterbur (MRI), and Peter Schultz (optical fiber); Ecuador's former President Leon Cordero; 37 astronauts who have flown in space; and the late: Seymour Cray, Marvin Camras, Chester Carlson, C. Stark Draper, Harold Edgerton, Robert Goizueta, Charles Kettering, Linus Pauling, Charles Steinmetz, rocket engineer Wernher von Braun, movie director Frank Capra, media measurer Arthur C. Nielsen, and *Challenger* astronauts Ellison Onizuka, Judy Resnik, and Dick Scobee.

- Sigma Tau, an engineering honor society founded in 1904 at the University of Nebraska, merged with Tau Beta Pi in 1974. It had 34 chapters and 45,000 members.

- Tau Beta Pi has been a dynamic integral part of the engineering profession for more than a century. It takes pride in its commitment to the development of engineers of exemplary character so that they will be leaders both on their campuses and in the rapidly changing world of technology for the betterment of Earth's citizens.

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